To the Right noble and most vertuous Ladyes (being the Nursing-Mothers, and Comforters of many poore-afflicted people) The *Lady* SYDNEY *of* Walsingham, *and the Lady* STRAVNGE, *wife to the Honourable Knight, Sir* HAMON STRAVNGE *of* Hunston; RICHARD SHABROOKE *wisheth the encrease of Gods good blessings in this life, and all graces leading to life eternall.*

Most noble and vertuous Ladies,

WHen I called to remembrance the most iust condemnation of that euill seruant in the Gospell, who buried his one Talent: it did quicken my conscience and stirre vp my minde on the contrary, the death should preuent mee (according to that measure of knowledge in my profession wherewith God hath endued mee) to communicate with my deerest Country-

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ses my skill (such as it is) by publishing in this small Treatise the principall obseruations of my whole practise. True it is, I haue now attained to the age of seauenty and two yeares, being from my youth by profession an *Occuliſt*. In which course of life, as (to my great reioycing in the Lord, through his blessings vpon mine endeauours) I haue helped very many (who haue beene long darkned) to their perfect sight, so haue I seene by lamentable experience, not a few poore Christians, of both sexes, and all ages, by sinister meanes and applications made helplesse, and vtterly depriued of the most deare and delightfull light of their eyes. The originall of these mischiefes are sometimes to be imputed to the negligence of Mothers and Nurses: But for the most part, the Practicioners in this kinde are to be taxed, and of them also the negligent, the vnskilfull, and the wilfull, most of them more studious to lighten the purses, rather then the paines of their grieued patients. All these sorts (after my plaine manner) I haue briefely touched in certaine caueats: then I shew the causes of Blindnesse, the seuerall hurtfull humours incident to the eyes, their qualities, and how to iudge which be curable and which incurable: and lastly, I haue annexed the most approoued medicines and remedies which I haue found by long experience to be most profitable.

I forre-see (most vertuous Madames) that

these

these aduertisements comming from my selfe a plaine olde man; shall not escape the detractions and scoffes of proud and malicious censurers; but hauing for the warrant of my doings the testimonie of a good conscience (that I haue sincerely, charitably, and vpon knowne grounds proceeded herein) I cast behinde mee all the vniust aspertions they possibly can throw vpon my name, I am a poore man my selfe, and my poore mite I freely cast into the poore mans treasury, wishing all them that are so humbly minded, not to despise what they not vnderstand: But first to make triall, then to trust, and so to take in good part that which is tendred vnto their good. And very sure I am that I cannot want good attestation of my cures performed by these meanes; and thankfull acknowledgement also from such as (vnder God) haue found helpe by mine applications.

Now the reasons enducing me (most honoured Ladies) to present this my simple labour to your excellent selues, are the famous reports of your noble vertues, whose charity, and piety, like two goodly collumbs, support and hold vp a world of poore distressed people, which otherwise would perish and fall to dust in the ruines of their afflictions and affirmities, as also that I know the excellencie of your clement natures, will vouchsafe to accept a small present, being offered of great good will and affection: In which since I can finde no di-

ſtrife, becauſe your goodneſſe is my warrant. I humbly craue pardon for my boldneſſe, and vowe euer, till this little ſand of my life be conſumed, to remaine,

The euer obliged ſeruant and true admirer of your vertues,

RICH. SHARROCKE.

To

To the courteous and indifferent Reader, especially to all such who are troubled with any disease incident to the eyes.

I Haue not here (courteous and indifferent Reader) entertained thee with fine phrases, and artificiall method (things curious and becomming the curious) I leaue that to those which are more ambitious of priuate fame, then studious for the common good. But I haue truly and plainely shewed thee how to beware of, and preuent certaine grieuous inconueniences: where the disease is curable, I haue set downe approued remedies for it, where it is incurable, I aduise thee to comfort

thy selfe in God, and saue thy money: Reade and practise, and as thou findest any profit, take in good part my paines, but giue the whole praise vnto God, to whose holy protection I commit thee and my selfe, and all the faithfull in Christ Iesus.

Farewell.

R. S.

CHAP. I.

Of Blindneſſe both curable and incurable in Infants, the cauſe, prevention, and cure.

FIrſt, becauſe experience is the Mother and chiefe Nurſe of all wiſedome, and that by it we are led and conducted to the end of perfection, I will in this my ſmall Treatiſe take her by the hand, and as ſhee ſhall with the aſſiſtance of truth guide me, ſo both begin and finiſh this profitable labour which I hope ſhall be both to the glory of my God, and the generall profit of my deareſt beloued Country.

Know then all to whom this (almoſt inſupportable) infirmitie of Blindneſſe is burdenous and heauie, that

that it hath two great and eminent enemies, Ignorance and Negligence, and by them it is often made desperate and cureleſſe, which otherwiſe would either not be at all, or if hapning, yet reſt within the eaſieſt compaſſe of ſpeedy cure and preuention.

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To you Mothers then and Nurſes (for you are the firſt caretakers of children) I direct my firſt admonitions, becauſe from you (when you prooue the leaſt remiſſe and careleſſe) doe proceede the greateſt errors; let mee earneſtly perſwade you by all meanes to beware of ſuffering your children to take colde in any part, eſpecially on their heads by ſitting with them long bare-headed, whether by the fire, in the Sunne, or in the open ayre, eſpecially whilſt they are in their ſwadling cloathes, or in the tender time of their Infancie; a fault much too common amongſt Nurſes, and a negligence ſo offenſiue; that the defect of blindneſſe comming therby, the diſeaſe is hardly

or neuer to be cured: For the mould of the head not being then closed, the least offence of colde striking the braine, bringeth sodaine and present blindnesse, which defect found, ere the cause be discerned, Ignorance presently giues out, that such children were borne blinde: But I affirme it is nothing so, and for proofe thereof call to witnesse mine experience, which I will shew in a few instances.

First, being in a place where my practise was knowne, there came to mee two women, within very fewe houres the one of the other, and brought to me two very sweet Babes, one nineteene weekes olde, the other one and twenty, both which had very cleare and faire eyes, in all outward semblance, but absolutely so blinde, that no blindnesse could be greater: Then I tolde the Mother of the first childe, that questionlesse in mine opinion her childe had taken colde whilst it was in the swadling-cloathes, to

which

which the Mother made preſent anſwere, that I had ſpoken truth, affirming that her Nurſe (within fiue or ſixe dayes after her deliuerance) had ſate by the fire with the childe bareheaded ſo long a time, that ſhee tooke offence thereat, and making her dreſſe vp the childe, the very next day after ſhe found that her childe was blinde, which ſhe was moſt certaine had ſeene very perfectly before.

Then came the other woman with her childe, and I ſaid to her as to the firſt, and ſhee likewiſe conſented with mine opinion, and onely affirmed, that ſhe was aſſured her childe did ſee perfectly a moneth or fiue weekes after it was borne.

Not long after this there came vnto me (and one M. *Surfleet*, a very skilfull *Occuliſt*) another woman with a childe in the ſame manner, which child was not aboue fourteene weeks olde, and both our opinions were (as of the former) that colde was the only

cauſe

cauſe of the diſeaſe, and ſhee agreed with vs ſhewing circumſtance, to leade her thereto; and onely affirmed that of her certaine knowledge her childe did ſee perfectly eight or nine dayes after it was borne.

Now it was M. *Surfleets* abſolute opinion, that in theſe caſes there was no cure in Art: but for mine owne part I a little diſſent therein, and doe allow all vertuous induſtry to be applied; becauſe it cannot bring the diſeaſe to a worſe end then it is already arriued, and may by Gods bleſſing recall that ſtrength and vigour to the member offended, which may reſtore that which was but a little put by, not vtterly forſaken; whereas to ceaſe from all manner of application, were to embrace a diſtruſt ſomewhat to neere allied to deſperation.

When therefore this infirmity ſhall happen, and proceede of the cauſes before-ſaid (which is eaſie to be known by argument, and the characters be-

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fore mentioned (I would haue you the carefully to rub and chafe the childes head cõtinually with warme cloathes, and to keepe it in a temperate warmenes. Then take Eyebright (or red Sage if you cannot get Eyebright) Wood-Bettony, or Garden Bettony, Fenel (or Fenell-seed) and of the Fenel or Fenel-seed a double quantity to either of the other two; stamp them & straine them, then infuse them in strong Ale, as to a quart or three pints of Ale, one small handfull of Eyebright or Bettony, and a double quantity of the Fenell: and of this let the Nurse drinke for the space of twenty, or foure and twenty dayes together, and if it be too strong for her, let her alay and temper it with fine Sugar or well clarified honey, and doubtlesse (by Gods permission) if any helpe at all be left in Nature, this will restore it, otherwise the expence of greater charges will be but the losse of your further labour. And herein by the way let me aduise you to remember

to

to gather theſe hearbs (if it be poſſible) in May or Iune, & hauing dried them in the ſhadow, preſerue them for your vſe all the yeare following, thē hauing occaſion to vſe them, beat them in a Morter to fine pouder, then ſearſe it, & to one draught of new Ale, infuſe of each of theſe feueral powders as much as you can well take vpon a ſixe pence; but of the Fenell a better quantity, all being compounded together. Now if you haue not the hearbs prouided at this eſpeciall ſeaſon, then know that in caſe of extremity, you may gather thē at any time, & vſe them as was firſt of all preſcribed, at leaſt euery morning and euening if not at other houres. A me ueral powd

And herein is an excellent obſeruation to be obſerued, that the vnskilfull practitioners in this Art (who taking theſe deſperate cures in hand) and not looking to ỳ tendernes & delicacie of the tie, wil only apply ſharp medicines (cauſing a tormēt & pain wher no pain is neceſſary) which is not only cōtrary

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to the charitable rules of Art, but vt-
terly offensiue to all good mindes to
behold any creature (especially weake
Infants) so vnmercifully afflicted by
these vnskilfull and hard-hearted tor-
mentors, and so much the rather, in as
much as their cruelty is extended vp-
on the eye, being a member most
quicke, & of greatest sence and feeling.

CHAP. 2.

Of Cataracks in the eies, their diuers kinds, signes, cure and preuentions.

HAuing shewed the imperfecti-
ons generally happening vnto
Infants, with their preuentions
and cures, I will now proceede to the
more substantiall diseases of the eyes,
and such as indeede are incident to all
people of all ages, of which the most
principall and most dangerous is that
which is called the Catarack, being a
thicke, flymie and tough filme, bred
and ingendred foure elements within

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the eye, either naturally by the fluxe of grosse and euill humors, or accidentally by the meanes of some stroke, bruse or wipe vpon the eye, by which the member being offended, puts forth that ill and naughty substance, whereby the sight is not onely hindered and impaired, but also wholely taken away, and depriued of all worthy vse and benefit.

To speake then generally of the Catharack, you shall vnderstand that there be sixe seuerall kindes thereof, as first the hazell coloured Catharack, the Catharack of the colour of the skie, the grayish Catharack, the blacke Catharack, the white Catharack, and the yellowish greene Catharack; and of these the three first are curable, and the latter three vtterly incurable. Diu of C rach

Now for as much as there may bee a failing in the true knowledge and discerning of these Catharacks, that you may be better enabled to iudge which Sig kno whi cura

is curable and which is incurable; you ſhall vnderſtand, that if the Patient grieued with any of theſe Catharacks, ſhall be able to diſcerne or perceiue the glimmering or ſhining, either of the Sunne, fire, flame or candle-light, that then queſtionleſſe all ſuch Catharacks are curable, and by Art to be holpen (the Practicioner hauing knowledge in the ſame) but if he cannot diſcerne any ſuch brightneſſe, and that all things ſeeme blacke, clowdie, and without any apprehenſion of ſhining; then be aſſured that all ſuch are vtterly incurable, and a man may both ſaue the conſumption of his purſe, and the torment of his body.

As for thoſe which are curable, they are to be cured by the Catharack needle, the demonſtration of which is needleſſe here to be expreſt; becauſe euery Artiſt or Profeſſour in this Art, ought or ſhould be ignorant in the vſe thereof, and to ſet downe in vnpolliſhed words, a thing of ſuch exquiſite

quisite perfection, whereby ignorance may be imboldened to aduenture on that which is farre beyond his cunning, were to giue courage to that from which my vttermost endeuours doe daily seeke to dissuade them, and therefore let euery good man be carefull not to meddle with the needle, till experience and long practise in matters of like nature, haue made him an absolute Master in the true vse of the needle.

After the Catharack is couched, or taken away with the needle (by a skilfull Practicioner) the Patient must be exceeding carefull of himselfe, that by no meanes hee take any colde, for the least colde which shall enforce him to sneese, cough, or otherwise to straine any of the opticke nerues or members, will sodainly make the Catharact rise againe, and so bring on a misery much greater then at the beginning: and therefore by all meanes the Patient must be contented to lye mufle

and warme for eight or nine dayes, till all such danger be auoyded.

Now for the preuention of these Catharacks, that they may either not grow at all, or beginning to grow, that they may be taken away long ere they come to any dangerous issue, as also to preuent both the danger and torment, which cannot but necessarily depend vpon the vse of the needle; I would wish all sorts of persons of what sexe or age so euer, whether old, young, or of middle estate, as soone as they shall perceiue their sights to decline or grow dimme without any paine, or much extraordinary watering, then to vse this powder hereafter following, in such sort as you shall finde it prescribed.

CHAP.

CHAP. 3.

An approoued and moſt excellent receite both for the cure and preuention, of all ſorts of Catharacks of what nature ſo euer.

TO cure the Catharack of what nature ſo euer, which beginneth to grow, or to preuent the encreaſing or blindneſſe, which proceedes from the ſame; as ſoone as you ſhall perceiue the firſt offence, vſe this drinke, and be ſure you ſhall finde the vertue and great perfection thereof: for it will not onely take away miſchiefe bred, but preuent the breeding and growth of miſchiefe; and if caſualty happen not, doubtleſſe olde age may bring a cleare ſight to the laſt minute; for it not onely giueth ſtrength to the weake eye, whether the weakeneſſe proceede from any defect of the braine, or other diſturbance of humor or inflamation, but alſo fortifieth it

against all other infirmity, which may any way annoy or trouble it, as my daily experience hath found to my owne particular satisfaction, and many good mens comforts: the substance of which excellent receit, is this which followeth: Take of the powder before rehearsed in the first Chapter, and in such manner prepared and gathered as is there spoken, together with the houres, times, and quantities, as is there set downe; onely with this difference, that whereas there the Nurse is appointed to vse it for the benefit of the childe (the medicine working from a secondary meanes, as from the milke which the Infant sucketh) here the party must as the Nurse vse it himselfe for his owne profit, and not faile but morning and euening to take it, and the newer that the drinke is (in which the powder is infused) the better it is, for it will enforce a man sooner to belch and breake owinde vpward, which is much auailing in this

cure,

cure, becauſe the aſcending of the fume purgeth and worketh great effect in the eyes, which the rather to encreaſe, you ſhall when the fume and winde ariſeth, keepe your mouth cloſe, and with your fingers ſtop your noſthrils, that as neere as you can the whole fume may aſſend into the head and eyes: whereby it comes that your newe Ale or bottell Ale is thought moſt ſoueraine to be vſed with this powder: but where neither bottel Ale nor new Ale is to be gotten, if then you vſe to eate the ſame quantity of powder (before rehearſed) dry without any moyſture, it is alſo very auaileable. Neither muſt you faile morning nor euening after the taking of this powder (whether dry or in drinke) but to walke at leaſt an houre after vp and downe, that the medicine may worke both the ſooner, the better, and with more efficacie, neither neede this walking vp and downe be limited to any certaine place of ſpeciall retirings

but may very well ſerue for the diſ-
charge of any outward or inward bu-
ſineſſe, as your affaires ſhall moue you:
neither neede you to ſtand too ſtrictly
vpon the quantity; but after the vſe
of it a little ſpace, then either to en-
creaſe or diminiſh the quantity, as you
ſhall finde your ſtomack apt, and able
to receiue it.

Some may imagine becauſe theſe
ſimples are ſo little curious, that there-
fore they may carrie but little vertue:
but let not ſuch folly deceiue thee, for
they are all of moſt ſingular worth and
vertue, eſpecially for the eyes, in ſo
much that the Auncients affirme, that
the Serpent which is the ſubtilleſt and
wiſeſt of all creatures, as ſoone as hee
waxeth olde, and findes his ſight be-
gin to faile him, preſently he goes to
the roote of the Fenell, or to the leafe,
according to the ſeaſon, and eating
thereof, hee findes preſent eaſe
and redreſſe of his infirmity. And
of like nature is your Bettony and the

reſt,

reſt, ſo that no penne can write too much of their vertue, nor any tongue too highly extoll the praiſe of this excellent compound, being vſed in ſuch ſort as is already preſcribed, for otherwiſe the abuſe of any thing turnes the greateſt vertue to the greateſt viciouſneſſe. And thus much of the Catharacks and their cure.

CHAP. 4.

Of accidentall wounds in the eyes, by what meanes ſoeuer, and of the cure thereof.

HAuing ſpoken of Catharacks whether naturall or accidentall, and of the cures thereof, I will now proceede to other accidentall wounds or hurts in the eyes, as are pricks with thornes, kniues, needles, or any other ſharpe-pointed inſtrument, ſtrokes with the eares of corne, ſtubble, bryers, or any other bruiſe or wipe in the eye, which when at any time they ſhall happen, be moſt diligently

gently

gently carefull (of what age or sexe so euer thou be, whether young or olde) not to apply any sharpe or coroding medicine thereunto, either waters, powders, or other compounds which are of hot, fretting and sharpe nature: but rather follow mine aduise herein, and as soone as you shall receiue any of these mischances, presently get one of wholesome and sweet breath to blow into your eye, to coole and asswage the paine thereof (for much good shall be found thereby) and be sure that the party so blowing, haue not eaten Garlick, or taken Tobacco any small space before, for they enflame and make hot the breath, and so asswage not but encrease your torment, whereas it should bee coole, sweet, and wholesome breath, which should mollifie and make deffe the paine you suffer; this done, take the white of an egge, and beate it to oyle, and dipping fine round pleagaints of flaxe or soft towe therein, as broad as

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an English shilling; apply it to the wounded eye, and renue it as it drieth, and this will not onely draw away the corrupt or brused blood, but also cleanse and coole the eye in such manner, that the cure will be made more safe and quickly; or if this cannot be had, take Parsly and sweet butter, and beate and mixe them well together, and so apply them to the eye, and it will worke the same effect as the former, whereas to apply any sharper medicine, whether water or powder, it is great ods that you not onely loose that which is already wounded, but also perish the sound one also, and so loose the benefit, of the most comfortablest sence which man enioyeth. If this asswage not the paine, and giue ease according to your expectation, then take white-bread crummes finely grated, and of the best new milke, and boyle them together till they be thick, then apply it to the eye luke-warme, and so renue it once in sixe or eight

houres

houres at the first dressing, and after in tenne or twelue houres, as the eye shall amend, and there is no doubt but the cure will soone be brought to that perfection which your owne heart can desire.

CHAP. 5.

Of red furious eyes, which are troubled with a hot scalding rhewme, the cause, effences, and the cure.

NExt to these accidental wounds in eyes, we will proceede to the red furious eye, which is troubled with a sharpe, scalding, and fretting rhewme, ouerflowing and annoying the same. And here you shall vnderstand, that for these eyes in diuers cases, there are good & certaine cures to be wrought, especially if you haue a good Practicioner in the same: But now a-dayes there are so many wilfull and vnskilfull dealers with this Art, that many by their ignorance are

made

made blinde, which otherwise might enioy the benefit of their sight to their liues end, nor doth this blindnesse fall vpon them as the Parrot climbes (*lento pede*) by leasure or with slow steps, but sodainly and quickly, as within two or three houres or little more at the vttermost, which that you may the better perceiue, and thereby the better auoyde their ignorance, I will by instance shew you how many vnfortunate Patients are made blinde.

First, when the grieued Patient comes to the vnskilfull Practitioner, and desires his helpe, presently (ignorance being his guide) he opens a veine in the temples of his head, and another veine vnder the eye, close by the nose, and also a third in the roofe of the mouth, or vnder the tongue, which blood is no sooner taken away, but presently blindnesse insueth, as hath beene experienced by diuers, as namely a yong Gentlewoman of little Snotynge in Norfolke, and one *Iames Feyld*

of

of Broughton in Huntington Shiere, both which, after the taking of their blood, fell instantly blinde within two houres after, albeit both their sights were reasonable good before, onely afflicted with some little paine, and the suspition of dimnesse, nor was the blood which was taken from the latter much; for it was no more then was receiued into two little cupping-glasses placed on his necke, and yet notwithstanding presently he fell blinde, nor could euer after be cured: and in like sort vnto these, one Goodman *Fletcher*, dwelling in a little Towne neere Bourne in Lincolne Shiere, hauing some small impediment in his eyes, and comming to an ignorant Practicioner, had a veine opened in his temples, and another by his nose, but the blood was no sooner receiued, when as the sight was vtterly lost for euer. And as these, I could cite a world of others, were not the circumstances too tedious, and the rehearsall needlesse

leſſe for our preſent purpoſe; onely this I collect from theſe inſtances, that euery man troubled with theſe infirmities, ſhould be exceeding carefull in making election of his Artiſt: and euery Artiſt religiouſly carefull not to exceede his knowledge, or meddle with the taking away of blood, or weakening the eye by any application, then which there cannot be a greater miſchiefe; for aſſuredly all theſe inuitable blindneſſes happening to the parties before recited, might haue beene auoyded, and the ſight certainly both fortified and preſerued, had they vſed the meanes onely which here I will ſet downe, without any other aditions of greater torment.

Whoſoeuer therefore ſhal be troubled in his eyes with the infirmities before ſaid, I would firſt wiſh him either by his owne dyet, or the counſaile of the learned Phyſitian to keepe his body ſoluble: Then take of white Copperis, and of Bolearmoniack, of each

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the quantity of a good French Peaſe, and beate them to very fine powder, then take of raine water (if it may be got) or ſnow water; or for want of them fine cleare running water, the quantity of a quarter of a pint, and put it into a glaſſe violl ſuteable to the quantity, and then adde to it the powder of the Coporis and Bolearmoniack, and ſhake and mixe them very well together till they be incorporate, then dipping a fine feather in this water, waſh your eyes therewith morning and euening, if your occaſions draw you not abroad into the ayre, for then it will offend and make your eyes ſmart too violently, ſo that in that caſe when you muſt trauaile, you may then ſpare your morning dreſſing, but by no meanes the euening when you goe to reſt. Now if at the firſt dreſſing you finde the water be too ſharpe and biting, ſo as you can hardly endure the torment, then you ſhall alay it by adding to a little more

water,

water, or a little more of the Bolearmoniack, prouided that you make it not too gentle, for to take away all fence of smarting, is to take away all force, and strength of vertue.

Now for as much as not any of these eyes thus afflicted with these sharpe & scalding rhewmes, are voyde of much foreneſſe, rawneſſe, and bloodineſſe about the lids and closures of the eyes, and especially at the two extreameſt corners of the same, It shall therefore be meete for you for the cure of the same, to take of the thickeſt and beſt Creame you can get, and besmeare and spread it all ouer the bottome of a copper or brasse Panne, Kettell, or Bason, leauing it of a very reasonable thinneſſe: then take another veſſell of little leſſe quantity, and fill it full of strong new made vrine or chamber-lie; then take the brasse veſſell in which the Creame is spread, and whelme it ouer the vrine (yet so as it may not touch the vrine) and let it

there rest the ſpace of nine or tenne dayes, then take it off and gather the Creame from the bottome of the veſſell, and put it into a glaſſe, and keepe it cloſe; with this oyntment, anoynt all the rawe places of the eye lids euery night when you goe to bed, and it will not onely take away the rawneſſe and ſmarting, but alſo dry them vp and skinne them: and herein you muſt obſerue to let the oyntment come as little into your eye as is poſſible, for it wil cauſe ſmarting, though otherwiſe it doth not further hurt. And thus much of the red furious eye, which is troubled with a hot ſcalding rhewme.

CHAP. 6.

Of the red fierie eye, which is oppreſt with groſſe humors, and accompanied with a corrupt breath.

THere is another ſort of red eyes, which are full of contagion and groſſe humors, and though not altogether

altogether so moyst as the former, yet fully as painefull and troublesome; for the inflamation is more violent, and the rhewme almost as sharpe. These kinde of sore eyes are very curious to be healed, for the party that is troubled therewith, hath euer for the most part a very strong and corrupt breath, which is so nouriſhed and fed by the euill humors that accompany the diſeaſe, that it is very difficult, and requireth both much Art and care in the reformation.

The Hee therefore that is troubled with these enflamed fierie and corrupt eyes, let him first purge his body well, either with purgation, glyster, or vomite, according to the abillity of the party which is diseased, and in this administration of Physicke, I doe aduiſe euery man that is carefull of the health of his owne body, not to take any but by the aduiſe either of the reuerend Doctor or learned Physitian, and not to relie on the audacious boldneſſe

of ignorant Professours, for in these dayes there are a world of *Empericks* and *Mountebanks*, which will take vpon them to giue Physick, whose skill (God knowes) can neither discerne nor iudge the true nature of the most ordinarie simples; therefore let euery man that loues himselfe, flie to the protection of the best, for it is best cheape, and brings with it the best safety; for none are more costly then the ignorant, because they hold great gaine a great aduancement to their glory and reputation, reckoning not with the good they haue done, but the profit they haue receiued.

There are another sort of Professours, who because they haue some insight in some of the liberall Arts, think they may as liberally deale with this particular Art, and thereupon will vndertake to giue Physick, yet not for your money but vertues sake (as they pretend it) yet when you haue reckoned with their Apothicaries, and summed

med vp their billes and extrauagant charges, as a buſhell or two of corne, Hens, Capons, Chickens, and other ſuch like gifts of gratuity (which cannot but euer accompany a thankfull nature) you will finde that the counſaile of a truly learned and worthy Phyſitian had beene more eaſie, more cheape, and a million folde more auailing for your health and preſeruation: Therefore as before I ſaid, after the greeued party hath purged and made cleane his body by the aduiſe of learning and experience, he ſhall then take the water of Copporis and Bole-armoniack, which was at large ſet downe in the former Chapter, and with it dreſſe and waſh his eyes in ſuch ſort (morning and euening) as was there declared, and with the ſame cautions, limits, and obſeruations, as was there expreſſed. And if the eye-lids (as before ſaid) ſhall grow rawe, ſore, or bleared, he ſhall then with the oyntment of Creame (mentioned in

the laſt Chapter) annoynt them therewith in the ſame manner, as hath likewiſe beene mentioned, without alteration or augmentation.

Now for as much as the diſtilling down of the rhewme into thoſe weake parts of the eyes, is both the greateſt nourisher of the diſeaſe and infirmity, and alſo the greateſt cauſe of the paine and anguiſh: to ſtay the fluxe thereof, and to make the member more apt, and fitter to receiue cure; you ſhall take halfe a handfull of Bay-ſalt, and ſpreading it before the fire, dry it exceedingly, then hauing a little bagge of linnen cloath ready; put the ſalt ſo dried into the ſame, and being of a reaſonable warmeneſſe, apply it to the nape of the necke in the hollow part, next to the iuncture of the head; and there let it reſt the ſpace of foure and twenty houres, and then renue it, and apply to another in the ſame manner: and thus doe once in foure and twenty houres till eaſe be found, and that the

rhewme ceaſe to oppreſſe you, which queſtionleſſe will quickly be effected, if any true care be taken.

Againe, for the ſtaying of the rhewme, if you vſe to take of the Copporis water (before ſaid) and therewith waſh your eyes, the temples of your head, and behinde your eares, ſuffering the water to dry in, and not to be wipte away, it is of great vertue and efficacie, for it not onely ſtayeth the rhewme, but is alſo very ſoueraine againſt the head-ake, and all paines of that nature, as tooth-ake and the like; and it ſafely healeth both the watry eye, which ſmarteth ſometimes, and itcheth other ſometime, as alſo all other eyes that are enflamed.

Now if it ſo fall out, as in great cauſes and corrupt bodies it may eaſily doe) that theſe things before preſcribed, worke not in all points according to your expectation, then you ſhall for refuge flie to this receite which hereafter followeth, and doubt not but

but by the grace of God you ſhall with much ſafety and contentment arriue at the full end of your purpoſe.

You ſhall take a quarter of an ounce of Cantharides, & lay them to ſteepe in the beſt wine vinegar, for the ſpace of foure or fiue houres; then take yellow Treate or greene Treate, or any ſticking plaiſter, and ſpread it on a linnen cloath plaiſterwiſe, ſo as the quantity may be deuided into three plaiſters; then take the Cantharides, and on each plaiſter lay ſome of them, then lay one of the plaiſters to the nape of your necke, and to each wriſt of your arme another, and doe this at night when you goe to bed, taking great care that you binde the plaiſters ſo faſt, that they by no meanes fall away, vntill you remoue them (which would be the next morning) then when you haue taken them off, you ſhall ſee bliſters (which the violence of the ſalue will raiſe) and thoſe you ſhall preſently let out, making the water euacuate,

and

and with the same plaister without the Cantharides heale the sores againe; then vse the first water as afore-said, and no doubt by Gods grace but the cure will be soone finished.

This last receite is sharpe and painfull, and therefore I would not aduise any man to vse it, but onely in cases of extremity, and where the cure is tedious and doubtfull.

CHAP. 7.

For sore waterie eyes proceeding of a colde rhewme, or for such as begin to growe darke, and doe euer present to the party a double obiect.

THere is another sort of sore eyes vvhich proceede of a colde rhewme, & they are best knowne by their exceeding much moystnesse and continuall weeping, putting the Patient to no paine more then priuate vexation; it is a disease of great danger and difficulty, and by most professours

feſſours of the Art held almoſt incurable; yet certes, it ſildome or neuer bringeth blindneſſe, onely the trouble and noyſomneſſe is much worſe then the danger, and therefore I would wiſh euery one in this caſe, not to tamper too much with their eyes, or try the experiment of many medicines; for that may bring blindneſſe perforce, onely I would haue them vſe the bagge of dried ſalt, in ſuch manner as hath beene before declared in the former Chapter, for aſſuredly where it failes, other medicines will but worke other worſe imperfections.

Now for the other ſort of ſore eyes, which beginning to growe dimme and darke, preſent to the party grieued a double obiect; making euery ſingle thing he looks on, appeare as it were two, or a double body; you ſhall for the cure thereof take the powder of Eyebright, Bettony, &c. mentioned in the firſt Chapter, and either drinke it with new Ale, bottell-Ale, or the like;

like; orelſe eate it dry, as hath beene formerly declared in the third Chapter, with the ſame obſeruations and cautions; and queſtionleſſe there is no doubt of moſt ſpeedy and eaſie cure, as experience hath found out, and I doubt not but all men ſhall finde to their benefit and comfort.

CHAP. 8.

For the Pin and the Web, and the like infirmities in eyes.

THis diſeaſe which is called the Pin and Web in the eyes, are little white ſpots in the eyes, which growing in or neere vnto the ſight, doth by proceſſe of time encreaſe and weare away the ſight, leauing the party altogether blinde and incurable; which to preuent, and take away theſe ſpots ere they come to the height of miſchiefe, you ſhall take a little Engliſh honey, and a fewe Dazie leaues or rootes (according to the ſeaſon) and hauing

haning ſtampt and ſtrayned the leaues or rootes, mixe with it the honey, then adde to them a little womans milke, and mixe and incorporate all well together, then at night when you goe to bed; and likewiſe in the morning when you riſe, drop a drop or two thereof into your eyes; and thus doe for the ſpace of a week or thereabouts, and by the grace of God the cure will be finiſhed to your comfort: alſo if to this receite you adde a little of the iuice of the true ground Iuie, which by ſome is called Tunhooſe or Alehooſe; you ſhall finde it very auaileable, eſpecially in great and dangerous cures, for it is more ſharpe and ſtrong then the other, and worketh his effects with more ſtrength and violence,

CHAP.

CHAP. 9.

For the imperfections which happen to eies by meanes of the ſmall Pockes, or for eyes that are troubled with wormes.

DIuers imperfections doe happen to the eyes by meanes of the ſmall Pocks, either to olde or young perſons, eſpecially when the maiſter Pock ſetteth in the eye, or in both the eyes (as it often happeneth) for cure whereof many doe vſe to adminiſter ſharpe biting waters, but in ſo doing, they take not away the blemiſh, but the ſight for euer, therefore by no meanes meddle with thoſe coroding medicines, but rather vſe theſe gentle receites hereafter mentioned.

Take a prety quantity of white Sugar-candie, or elſe ſome of the thunder-bolt ſtone, or for want of both a peece of the Cuttell-bone which the Goldſmithes doe vſe, and hauing beaten any of them, and ſearſt it to as fine a pow-

a powder as is possible; with a small quill blowe some of it into the offended eyes, & it is a most certaine cure.

For those eyes which are troubled with little wormes, like those in mens hands but smaller, causing an extreame itching in the eyes, so that some rub them with their hands, some with clothes, and some with a peece of silke, all which is both vnwholesome and offensiue (for they should not be rubbed at all) because any rubbing doth prouoke the rhewme to distill and settell to that part: and much touching or handling of the eyes, causeth both tenderneſſe and soreneſſe; which to preuent and to kill those wormes which annoy you, you shall take the Copporis water before mentioned, and with it wash your eyes morning and euening, and compell your selfe to sneese as much as is possible, and it is a present cure.

CHAP.

CHAP. 10.

For the filme vpon the eyes, or things of like nature, or for hurts with powder or shot.

FOr such eyes as are troubled with filmes or thinne scummes, growing and spreading ouer the sight, you shall take the marrow of a Goose wing, and Ginger beaten and searst to a very fine powder, and mixe them very well together, then with a quill take vp a good drop thereof, and put it into the eye which hath the filme; and thus doe euery morning when you rise, and euery euening when you goe to bed, or for want of this you may vse the powder of the thunder-bolt stone before spoken of, in such manner as hath beene before recited, and it is a cure both safe and certaine.

Now if any man shall happen either by shooting in a Piece, or by other casuall meanes to receiue any hurt

in his eyes, either by the burning of the Gunpowder, or by hauing the ſame blowne into his eyes; or if they be offended with the ruſt of the Peece, ſhiuers or ſuch like, you ſhall preſently get one that hath a good ſight, and a nimble ſtedie hand, and taking a fine quill, make it as ſharpe as a needle, and with the ſame let them picke out the ſpots, cornes, or ſhiuers, and wipe them cleane away with the fine taſſell of a Handkerchiefe, then waſh it with faire running water, and fine Sugar-candy well mixt together, and dropt gently into the eye, and the cure will ſoone be finiſhed.

CHAP. 12.

For certaine particular wounds in the eyes; as with dore latches, cudgels, &c.

IF any man of what age or degree ſo euer, ſhall by going in the darke, or other caſualty, ruſh vpon the latches of dores, bolts, nailes, or the like,

or by thrusts with cudgels, foyles, or blowes with cat goe far, thorn, billets, or the like, receiue any blow or stripe vpō the eye, or haue the eye-ball thrust out, so that it lye vpon the cheeke; you shall then first put vp the eye into the place, where before it was; and doe it with great lenitie and gentlenesse; then with a cloath stay the eye so placed for the space of two or three houres; then take whitebread crums finely grated and new milk, and seethe it till it be thick, and so apply it warme to the eye; or for want of it Parsly and Butter, as hath beene before declared; but by no meanes any sharpe waters, or smarting medicine; and the cure will in few dayes be finished.

DO CHAP.

CHAP. 12.

Of weake eyes, and the causes of their declining, the helpes and preuentions.

THe sight is weakned two wayes, that is to say, either naturally, or accidentally; if naturally, it is by meanes of olde age, weakenesse of the braine, or else by the ouer-flowing of grosse and vnwholesome humors, if accidentally, then it is by the meanes of ill diet, the vse of naughty applications, disorder in exercise, wounds, rushes, bruses, and the like.

Now that you may know when your sight declineth & waxeth weake, obserue euer that when you see better farre off then neere hand (as when you looke on a booke or the like) that then your sight beginneth to wayne, also such eyes as doe neuer runne, but are alwayes dry, they are weake eyes, and very subiect to Catharacks: againe, if the eyes be cleare as glasse, but yet troubled, and that the sight of the eye

doth

doth ſhake and quiuer like the needle of a Diall, holding a continuall motion without ceaſing, ſuch an eye is alſo a weake eye, and declining.

Now for the cure of any of theſe imperfections (for they are all naturall) there is nothing more ſoueraine then the powder mentioned in the firſt Chapter, being prepared and vſed as is there ſet downe.

As for thoſe weakeneſſes which come by accident; they are euer to be cured by their contrary, as if any proceede by ryot and diſorder, they muſt be amended by temperance, if by violent labor, then by moderate exerciſe: if by ill applications, then by wholeſome receites, and if by wounds, then by wholeſom ſalues, to any of which if you adde the benefit of the Coporis water before ſpecified, the cure will be much ſooner finiſhed.

Now beſides theſe defects already ſpoken of, there is another as groſſe as any, and exceeding frequent amongſt

all young wiues, maydes, and women of each degree and quality, and that is the wearing of Maſtick patches or plaiſters on the temples of their heads; which howſoeuer pride for faſhion ſake, or care for health ſake doe produce, yet can nothing be more hurtfull or noyſome: ſome will ſay they weare them for the head-ake; ſome for the tooth-ake: yet I affirme except your eyes be too exceeding moyſt and dropping, you cannot vſe any thing more hurtfull; for if the eye bee dry and doe not water, then the ſtaying of that comfortable moyſture which ſhould quicken the eye, weakens it and the ſtrength being taken away which ſhould preſerue it, there doth not follow Diſeaſe but Blindnes, and therefore let this my Caueat warne you if you will preſerue good ſights, to caſt away thoſe playſters, and in ſteade thereof onely take running water and waſh the temples of your head therewith, and behinde your eares, and

wipe not the water away but let it dry of it ſelfe and thus doing euery morning, it will take away all head-ake and tooth-ake, and ſtay the Rewme and other griefes, for which your Maſticke patches, and Gumme playſters were vſed; for beleeue me it neither addeth Beauty to the face, nor health to the Body, but on the contrary taketh away all ſtrength from the eyes and bringeth blindnes euer too earely, as I haue found by experience, and for better proofe I will repeate vnto you one true inſtance.

There was a young woman dwelling in *Downham* in Norfolke, which was troubled much with the head-ake, and ſending for aduice (as ſhe thought to the skilfull) was directed to take one of theſe plaiſters, and to weare it on her temples, but preſently it tooke away her ſight in fewe houres after, yet it cured her head-ake, now if this plaiſter had beene applied to the nape of the necke, and not to the temples,

it had preuailed, and no euill had ensued. The plaister which she applied was compounded of wine vinegar, a Rose-cake, an egge rosted hard, and Commin-seede; all which ingredience are good if they had beene applied to the right place; but being misplaced on the temples, it drew away the strength of the eyes, and brought blindnesse. Therefore I aduise euery one that is troubled with the head-ake or the like, onely to take a little strong wine vinegar, and a little oyle of Spike, and to mixe them very well together, and then to bathe therewith those parts where the paine is, and it will not onely giue ease to the paine, but also adde strength and comfort to the eyes, as I haue found by most certaine and infallible experience.

for ad-

There is another defect to which I must giue a great *Caueat*, and especially to all you Schoolemasters & Schoolemistresses which haue the charge of young Children, bee they Boyes or

gyrles ; that in any caſe you obſerue and note well the ſtrength or weakenes of your Schollers eyes: and where you finde imperfection or imbecillitie in the ſight, there by all meanes to abſtaine from forcing them to looke on very ſmall Prints, or to ſowe on very fine Samplers, or in curious workes, eſpecially blacke workes , for they are not onely hurtfull and bring exceeding much weaknes to the eyes, but alſo the more they ſtriue and endeauour to beholde the obiect they looke on, the more hurt they doe to their eyes, and the weaker their ſight groweth , Therefore in theſe caſes where you ſee ſuch weake ſights beſides reforming the faults before ſaid, you muſt prouide for them large brim'd Hats to ſhade their eyes, for they haue not any greater enemy then the light: and alſo you muſt giue them of the Powder (mentioned in the firſt Chapter) to drinke in ſuch ſorte as is there preſcribed.

CHAP.

CHAP. 12.

An excellent and approued Cure for any Inflamation in the face, for the Corny face, the Rich face, and the like.

WHosoeuer is troubled with any inflamation in his face, whether it bee plaine red, which is heate, or pumples and red pustuls which is corny or vniuersally ouer all the face pimples and pustuls both red and purple, which is called the rich face; let him knowe that all such inflamations, besides the noysomnes and vnseemelinesse thereof, it is also hurtfull and troublesome to the sight, therefore for the Cure of such an Infirmity, let him take running water, and roch Allome, and put them together into a Glasse or vioII, and by shaking and tossing, symbolize and incorporate them so as the Allome may be vasted, then at night when you goe to bed, take a fine Napkin and wet it in

the

the water well and apply it to your face, and let it there lye till the water ſoake in and dry on your face, and then renew it, and doe thus as oft as you ſhall thinke good; and with all abſtaine (aſmuch as you can) from ſtrong drinkes and hote Wines, and the cure will be more ſpeedy; Now if the cure proue ſlowe, you ſhall take of Brimſtone, of large Mace, of Gooſe-greaſe or Capons-greaſe, of each alike, and mixe and temper them well together, then put them into a gally pot and with this oyntment, annoynt your face as oft as you ſhall thinke good, and doubt not but the cure will be very ſpeedy and certaine: but if you find that this inflamation proceedeth from the liuor onely; if then beſides theſe outward applications before ſaid, you take the aduice of a learned Phyſitian, and now and then purge your body, there is no doubt but your face will be as cleare and well complectioned as it was before.

A caueat

A caueat to all sorts of people for the truest vse of the *powder, and drinke mentioned in the first Chapter.*

FOr as much as the powder compounded of Eyebright (or for want of it red Sage) of wood Bettony (or for want of it the garden Bettony) and of Fenell or Fenell-seede, in such manner as is at large set downe in the first Chapter, is of such excellent vse and vertue, that a man cannot speake too much of it; nor be too carefull to instruct how to apply it (whether it be for weake eyes, sore eyes, dimme eyes, or declining sight whatsoeuer) I thought good therefore to conclude this my small Treatise with this Caueat, that whosoeuer shall haue

haue occaſion to vſe this compound, they may freely chuſe whether they will vſe the powder in ſuch ſort, as is ſhewed in the firſt chapter, or elſe take the hearbs greene, and infuſe them in Ale, in ſuch ſort, as is ſhewed before for the Nurſe in the firſt Chapter alſo, prouided that they faile not to continue the vſe of this drinke, for the full ſpace of twenty, or foure and twenty dayes at the beginning; then after at pleaſure.

FINIS.

Written by *Richard Seabrooke*, Practicioner in the Art of the Occulist, and dwelling in *Kings-Linne* in Norfolke. 1620.

A Table of all the principall things contayned in this Booke.

Of blindnesse both curable and incurable in Infants, the cause, prevention and cure. Chap. 1.

The soveraine powder. ibid.

Of Catharacks in the eyes, their diuers kindes, signes, cure and prevention. Chap. 2.

An approued receite for the cure of all sorts of Catharacks of what nature soeuer. 3.

Of accidentall wounds in the eyes by what meanes so euer, and of the cure thereof. 4.

Of red furious eyes which are troubled with a hot scalding rhewme, the cause, effences, and cure. 5.

Of the red fierie eye, which is oppresst with grosse humors, and accompanied with a corrupt breath. 6.

For sore waterie eyes proceeding of a colde rhewme, or for such as begin to grow darke, and doe euer present to the party a double obiect. 7.

For the Pin and the Web, and the like infirmi-

The Historie of TITHES

That is,

The *Practice* of PAYMENT of them.
The *Positive* LAWS made for them.
The OPINIONS touching the *Right* of them.

A REVIEW of it.

Is also annext, which both *Confirmes* it and directs in the *Use* of it.

By I. SELDEN.

Nec verùs Judicijs agimur, Sed sumptuosa grave
Consilijs numerata nihil, IGNAVIA fallunt.

M. DC. XVIII.